



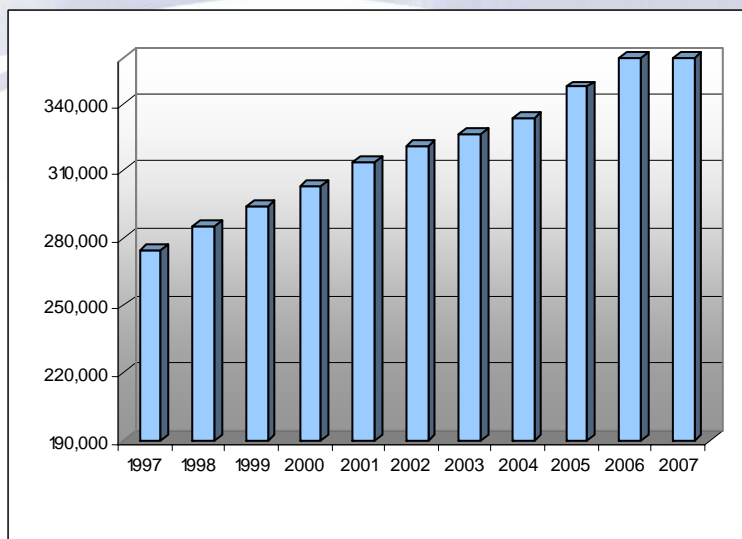
# Ada County

October 2008

## Work Force Trends

### Population

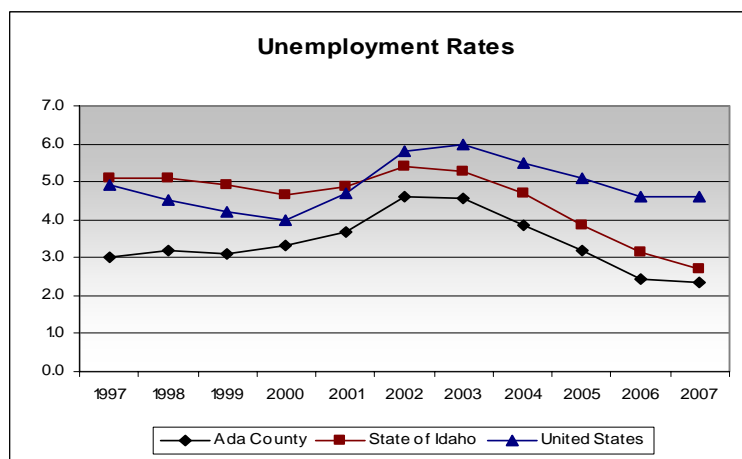
Ada County is Idaho's largest urban and regional center of government, industry, and education. Ada County is the most populous county in Idaho at 373,406 residents, over twice the size of the next largest county, Canyon. It ranks 31<sup>st</sup> among Idaho's 44 counties in total area, and nearly 29.1 percent of the county is federally owned. The population has been rapidly growing over the past decade adding 99,081 residents since 1997. This figures to an astounding 36.1 percent growth rate for the decade 1997 to 2007, well above the state's growth rate of 22.0 percent over the same period. Ada County's low unemployment rate, outdoor lifestyle, and relatively mild climate, continue to attract an increasing and diverse number of people from around Idaho as well as from out of state.



### Labor Force & Employment

The Ada County *Civilian Labor Force* continued to grow during 2007 albeit by a slower pace. Between the years 1997 to 2007 the labor force increased by 26.2 percent, down from 1996 to 2006's growth rate of 30.0 percent. During 2006 Ada County added 8,545 people to the labor force while in 2007 3,967 people joined the county's labor force. A slowing economy nationally, a weak manufacturing sector and a construction industry that has slowed down as well are the driving factors behind the slowing labor force growth. Despite the slowdown, the unemployment rate remained well below the 4.0 percent level commonly viewed as full employment coming in at 2.3 percent, two-tenths of a percent lower than 2006's rate.

As the labor force continues to grow so have *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. The last year however has been a little rough for the goods producing industries in Ada County which is where wealth is created by bringing in money from outside the area in terms of exports or outside investment in construction projects. As

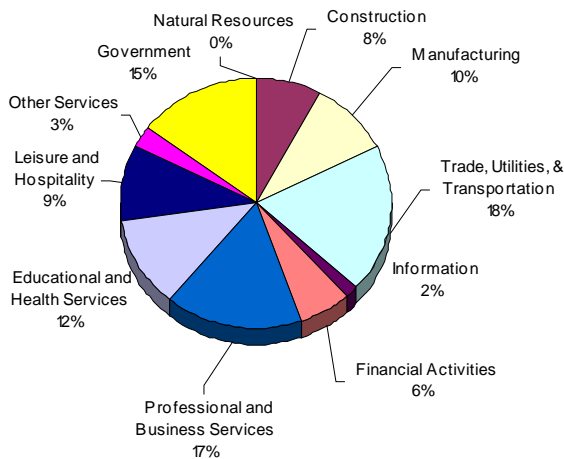


mentioned briefly before, manufacturing is not doing well in Ada County with the exception of metals manufacturing as Micron Technology the state's largest private employer had a reduction in force of about 1,100 workers during summer of 2007. Consequently the number of manufacturing jobs in Ada County has dropped to below the number of jobs in 1997. In addition, construction slowed down as well over the summer posting a loss of just under 340 jobs although still well above the level of construction jobs in 1997. The best performing industries in 2007 were in the service sector as retail trade continued adding jobs as more big box retailers continued to open and call centers continue to hire as both new and existing centers open and expand.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	196,446	194,347
Total Employment	191,437	184,902
Unemployed	5,009	9,445
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.5	4.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	155,647	162,809	166,544	170,639	175,774	175,436	176,876	178,515	185,519	192,322	196,663
Unemployment	4,678	5,212	5,135	5,703	6,488	8,102	8,091	6,877	5,919	4,710	4,592
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.7	4.6	4.6	3.9	3.2	2.4	2.3
Employment	150,969	157,597	161,409	164,936	169,286	167,334	168,786	171,639	179,600	187,612	192,071

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



## Per Capita Income & Employment

Ada County ranks second in the state in terms of per capita income at \$39,302, which is 38 percent above the state per capita income level. This is up from being 36 percent higher than the state in 2004. Ada county remained 14 percent above the national per capita income but lost a little bit of ground from 2004 when the difference was 16.1 percent above the national level.

*Construction*, the largest job creating industry in 2006 declined in 2007 but remained over 5,400 jobs above 1997's level. *Trade, utilities and transportation* is the single largest sector of covered employment and as the population grows so has employment especially in the retail trade part of this sector.

### Major Private Employers

St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
Blue Cross of Idaho Health Services
DirectTV
Hewlett Packard
Idaho Power Co.
Micron Technology, Inc.
Fred Meyer
Wal-Mart
Citicorp
Supervalu

### Occupational Wages\*

### Entry Level Wage

Medical Assistants	\$10.82
Waiters and Waitresses	\$6.10
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	\$10.07
Customer Service Representatives	\$9.32
Electricians	\$11.95
Construction Laborers	\$8.91
Team Assemblers	\$8.80
Registered Nurse	\$18.70
Exec Secretaries & Admin Assistants	\$11.79
Welders	\$10.08
Retail Salespersons	\$7.20

\* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	150,440	\$28,229	207,814	\$39,265	212,248	\$40,126
<b>Agriculture</b>	575	\$21,132	764	\$27,292	830	\$28,697
<b>Mining</b>	87	\$29,543	135	\$41,900	109	\$55,035
<b>Construction</b>	10,894	\$31,143	16,657	\$40,950	16,255	\$48,369
<b>Manufacturing</b>	21,930	\$43,072	21,766	\$62,756	20,934	\$65,433
<b>Trade, Utilities, &amp; Transportation</b>	31,324	\$25,714	39,394	\$35,528	41,011	\$34,834
<b>Information</b>	2,427	\$34,058	3,881	\$47,476	3,935	\$47,072
<b>Financial Activities</b>	9,147	\$30,733	12,007	\$46,177	12,063	\$47,301
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	18,626	\$24,515	35,079	\$42,187	35,646	\$42,330
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	14,750	\$28,335	24,401	\$38,065	25,318	\$39,802
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	13,536	\$9,719	18,874	\$13,732	20,315	\$13,963
<b>Other Services</b>	4,317	\$18,277	5,406	\$24,382	5,516	\$24,852
<b>Government</b>	22,827	\$30,402	29,449	\$38,959	30,318	\$39,879

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Ada County</b>	\$27,446	\$28,742	\$30,589	\$33,500	\$33,986	\$34,320	\$34,672	\$37,646	\$38,165	\$40,445
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
<b>United States</b>	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the offices located at the addresses below:

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